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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 16, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONSTITUTION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, standing in this hallowed chamber of democracy where laws are debated, amended, and passed, one must stand in awe of our courageous forefathers who created this institution. In fact, 227 years ago when our Constitution was created and signed by 39 brave men, it created the first government of its kind, a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

These men, well aware of the consequences of all-powerful European

monarchies, created a democratic system of three coequal branches of government each with its own unique role. The brilliance that these men instilled in this document is still alive and well to this day as we watch each branch of the government perform its role, keeping checks and balances on the others to make sure that the will of the people is obeyed.

Mr. Speaker, this Constitution Day, let us give thanks to these wise and brave men who birthed our constitutional republic and our Nation.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE 23RD DISTRICT OF TEXAS, THE TOWN OF SANDERSON, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEG0) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I would like to highlight one of the really interesting towns of west Texas as we continue to journey through the 23rd District, which encompasses nearly 24 percent of the land area of Texas, some 800 miles from one end of the district to the other.

With a population of over 800 people, Sanderson, Texas, is known as the Cactus Capital of Texas. It was originally named Strawbridge or Strobridge, and Sanderson was founded as a switching point for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

In 1882, a roundhouse was built there, and the name of the town was changed to Sanderson, after Thomas P. Sanderson, who was the engineer in charge of construction. In the following year, in 1883, a post office opened in Sanderson.

In Texas lore, there is a very famous person by the name of Roy Bean who was known as the Law West of the Pecos. Judge Roy Bean, wanting to capitalize on the new town with a lot of promise, opened a saloon in Sanderson in the early 1880s, but he

couldn't compete with Charlie Wilson's Cottage Bar Saloon.

After Bean opened his saloon, Wilson allegedly spiked the whiskey with coal oil. Judge Bean soon had to move eastward to Vinegarroon and Langtry, and Sanderson was dubbed as being "too mean for Bean." Those were the years of railroad workers and cowboys which filled the area.

At the turn of the century, in 1905, the once unruly Sanderson became the county seat of the newly-created Terrell County, and it remains the county seat even to this day.

Shortly after becoming the county seat, Sanderson started looking more and more like a town on the move, but, as time passed, Sanderson left behind its Wild West origins and became a crossroad—the midpoint, if you will—between San Antonio and El Paso.

The courthouse was built in 1906. Near the courthouse some years later, in 1931, an art deco-style high school was built, and Sanderson's population continued to grow to about 3,000 people during the first half of the 20th century.

Sheep and goats became the main goods as part of the livestock industry, and they are still main commodities of the area today. For example, in 1970, over 1 million pounds—over 1 million pounds—of wool and mohair were shipped out of Sanderson.

In 1965, Sanderson was devastated by a flash flood. The usually dry Sanderson Creek overflowed and claimed 24 lives. After the tragic event, 11 flood control dams were built around Sanderson by the Army Corps of Engineers to make sure that that would never happen again.

Sanderson was built around the railroad, and its fate has largely been determined by the railroad. A series of decisions altered, decisively, Sanderson's growth. During the 1970s, the new construction of Interstate 10,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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